पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Environmental Conditions in Mega cities

1108. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an overall assessment of the environmental conditions in 23 Mega cities of the country;

(b) whether this assessment reveals highly unsatisfactory conditions which are causing great hard to public health; and

(c) what precise measures, legislative as well as administrative, are in hand to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board has carried out intensive surveys in 23 cities to assess Water and Air Pollution problems. To assess the pollution load, surveys were carried out for waste-water generation, ambient air quality and noise pollution.

(b) Under the National ambient air quality monitoring programme, the ambient air quality is being monitored in 23 cities for suspended particulate matter (SPM), sulpherdioxide and oxides of nitrogen. It has been observed that the levels of pollutants measured are within the ambient air quality standards. However, at occasions, levels of SPM were higher than the standards because of natural dusty conditions.

(c) Steps taken to control pollution by the Government are as follows:-

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) A network of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the state Pollution Control Board to keep the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated limits;

(v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industires from congested areas;

(vi) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units as well as local bodies for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

(vii) A time-bound action plan for control of pollution from the 17 categories of polluting industries has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments.

Torture of Indian Diplomat by Pakistan

1109. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India recently expelled one Pak diplomat and one Pak Official for espionage activities and for activities incompatible with their status and without any physical and mental torture to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in retaliation the Pakistan Government also expelled one Indian diplomat and one Indian official after giving them much physical and mental torture against the code of conduct for diplomatic personnel agreed upon by the two sides in August 1992;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government have so far taken or propose to take in future to avoid recurrence of incidents of torture inflicted by Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) On July 12, 1994 Government requested the Government of Pakistan to wtihdraw from India a staff member of the Pak High Commission, Mohammad Afzal Bajwa who was apprehended for espionage activities. On July 11, 1994, soon after his apprehension, he was handed over to officials of the Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi, in good physical condition. Government also sought the withdrawal of First Secretary Nasir Uddin Ahmed in the Pak High Commission as his conduct was found to be incompatible with his status as an accredited diplomat in India.

Regrettably, Pakistani authorities, during the night of July 11, 1994 abducted an Attache in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, Shri V. S. Chauhan from outside his residence. He was forcibly detained and subjected to sustained third-degree interrogation lasting for more than six hours. Pakistan subsequently requested that Shri Chauhan and a staff member in the Indian Consulate General in Karachi, Shri B. A. Adams, be withdrawn from Pakistan.

(e) Government proposed on April 7, 1994 to the Government of Pakistan that consultations between the two Foreign Offices may be held for a review of the implementation of the Code of Conduct. This proposal has not yet found favour with Islamabad. Meanwhile, discussions were recently held in New Delhi and in Islamabad between officials of the concerned Mission and Ministry to discuss the range of issues involved. Several suggestions were made on ways and means of improving implementation of the Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. Both sides also agreed to hold further discussions on this subject.

Commission on sustainable development

1110. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a commission on sustainable development has been set up as a follow-up of the Earth Summit held at Rio in June, 1992;

(b) if so, the objectives, functions and composition of the above Commission;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established in February 1993 as a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

(b) The objective of the CSD is to ensure evective follow up of the Earth Summit, as well as to enhance international cooperation in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries. Its functions relate broadly to monitoring the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 activities, related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals; to consider information provided by governments and to review progress regarding implementation and committments contained in Agenda 21 including those related to the provision of fiancial resources and transfer of technologies; and to make recommendations thereon. The Commission is composed of 53 States elected for three-year terms.